United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Inner Harbor Lofts I nomination comprises a complex of three structures historically known as the Heiser Building, the Rosenfeld Building, and the Strauss Building. The three buildings are located at the northwest corner of Lombard and Paca Streets in downtown Baltimore.

The Heiser building, 32-34 South Paca Street, is a six-story structure of brick, stone, and iron, eight bays wide and fourteen bays deep.

The freestanding north side of the building is built of brick laid in common bond. All windows have double-hung with 1/1 sash, segmental arched brick lintels, and stone sills. Metal shutters flank the windows of the first four floors. The roof of the building slopes to the rear. Faded painted advertisements of men modeling clothing and the accompanying brand names, dating from after the turn of the century, remain on the east end of the side wall.

The front of the building features a first floor of glass and iron. A symmetrical arrangement of two entrances is reached by sets of broad metal stairs. A brick pier separates the recessed entrances, which are filled with wood and glass double doors with transoms. Large glass windows above wooden panels flank the entrances. A central pier and two brick piers at either side of the building support a massive iron lintel adorned with rosettes. A stone belt course runs above the iron lintels.

Sets of three slim, engaged columns of molded brick rise from the second through fifth floors, accentuating the central and end piers. A stone cornice with dentils crosses the facade above this. The stone capitals are carved with ornamental leaf and vine details. The columns are detailed with molded, basket-woven brick. The rectangular windows between all have double-hung, 1/1 light sash, heavy stone lintels, and banded stone sills.

The sixth floor windows above the cornice are arranged six on either side of the central pier in two groupings. Each window is round arched with brick lintel and banded stone sill. Engaged colonettes at the ends and in the middle carry the detail of the lower columns.

A brick parapet with copper banding at top and bottom edges tops the roof. Recessed brick panels are arranged in patterns in the parapet.

The Rosenfeld building is located at 36-38 South Paca Street. This six-story, five-bay loft building is between the Heiser and Strauss buildings, making a row of fairly equally dimensioned loft structures. The building is faced with brick laid in imitation of heavily rusticated stone.

The first floor is composed of metal, wood, and glass. Metal steps lead to the recessed tripartite central entrance, which is filled with sets of double wood and glass doors. Metal piers flank the entranceway, and large shop windows border these. The end bays are slightly recessed behind the central portion of the building. Entances are at ground level in either end; that on the left is accommodated in a large segmental arch with overscaled received voussiors laid in brick.

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Inner Harbor Lofts I
Baltimore City

CONTINUATION SHEET Mary and ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

DESCRIPTION, continued

The recession of the end bays is carried through to the sixth floor. The three central bays are five-story recessed panels containing windows and separated by narrower brick panels. They are terminated at the sixth floor by segmental arches with rusticated voussoirs in brick and over-scaled keystones of white brick. The wide central opening contains tripartite, double-hung windows with 3/3 lights. The flanking verticals have single sets of double-hung windows with 3/3 lights. There are pressed sheet metal panels between each floor of windows.

A brick parapet, portions of which have been rebuilt, tops the flat roof.

The Strauss building at 40-42 South Paca Street is a six story high, six bay wide, and eleven bay deep loft structure. It originally served as two separate facilities, with different addresses.

The first floor of the building is a composition of white stone, red brick, and cast iron. Resting on stone bases, three brick piers at center and ends rise to support massive iron lintels. At the juncture of piers and lintels, overscaled stone brackets with pedimented tops are set into the brick. Stone steps set between the piers lead to the first floor entrances. Four sets of double doors and two large windows fill the bays between the intermediary cast-iron verticals and the piers.

The second through fourth floors are fenestrated with segmental arched, double-hung windows with 1/1 lights. Banded stone sills are shared by the windows; lintels are of brick and stone skew blocks are set in the spandrels. Molded brick rosettes of a variety of motifs are set beneath the sills in rows. A minor stone cornice runs at the fifth floor level.

The windows of the fifth and sixth floors are round-arched and have double-hung sash with 1/1 lights. Courses of stone run at the spring-points of the arches. Panels of basket-weave brick are set below the stone sills. Above the sixth floor windows, molded brick rosettes are set in corbeled brick, and a metal cornice with a row of dentils crowns the roof.

The first floor piers are carried as pilasters at the center and edges of the front facade. They swell at the third and fifty floor levels and each is marked with double lines of vertical gouging for their entire height.

On the side of the building, the windows are all segmental arched with brick lintels nd stone sills. Windows have double-hung sash with 4/4 lights. The fifth and sixth cloors have smaller windows with 2/2 lights. The window openings in stories three through six have chamfered corners with brick pilaster insets at either side. The corbeled brick, rosettes, and metal cornice are carried onto the side from the front. A wooden water tower with conical roof rests on a metal frame at the rear of the roof.

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Inner Harbor Lofts I Baltimore City

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

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DESCRIPTION, continued

The iron rail on this Lombard Street side extends the length of the building; it is original.

The three buildings have been completely modernized for re-use as apartments. The exteriors have been cleaned and bricks repointed. The interiors of the buildings feature narrow courtyards with glass enclosed bridges connecting the three buildings on all levels. The large loft spaces on the six floors have been converted into 106 apartments. The first floor apartments are accessible from the interior courtyards or private street entrances. Upper level apartments are located on carpeted hallways bisecting the buildings. The buildings have also been modernized with elevators and fire stairs. There is a great flexibility in the design of individual apartments. Each apartment has a permanent core of kitchen and bath. The rest of the unit is open plan. Space over the bathrooms, which are 7'6" high, can be used as sleeping lofts or storage spaces. The ceilings in the buildings range from a height of 12 to 14 feet. Some of the units have an extended mezzanine level. The units generally feature large windows, exposed brick walls, and exposed pipes and ventilation shafts. Some also have spiral stairways and skylights.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 X 1900-	Areas of Significance—C — archeology-prehistoric — archeology-historic — agriculture — X architecture — art — commerce — communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry invention	landscape architectu law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1886, 1887, and 1905	Builder/Architect Par	ker and Thomas, and	others

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

The Inner Harbor Lofts are excellent examples of the type of loft structures or vertical manufactories which were concentrated in downtown Baltimore from 1850 to 1910. They are vitally linked to the importance of Baltimore as a major clothing, pharmaceutical, and tobacco products manufacturing center. The Heiser, Rosenfeld, and Strauss buildings were the homes of important local industries in the late 19th and early 20th century.

The buildings are also significant as representatives of commercial structures of that era, with styles ranging from Romanesque Revival to Beaux Arts. In particular, the Rosenfeld Building is important as the design of a leading local architectural firm of the early 20th century, Parker and Thomas.

HISTORY

The <u>Heiser building</u>, a Romanesque Revival structure, was built as a show factory for irles Heiser in 1886. This building soon became headquarters for Isaac Freidenwald and Company, lithographers of regional importance. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper of 1888 wrote concerning Friedenwald: "It is not only unquestionably the largest and best equipped in the South, but in the varied and high character of its work and the extent of its facilities ranks among the foremost of the United States." About 1905 the structure became part of E. Rosenfeld and Company, clothing manufacturers. Many of Rosenfeld's painted advertisements remain on the exterior walls of all three buildings.

The Rosenfeld building is the newest building in the loft complex. It dates from 1905. This loft with overscaled Beaux Arts styling was built for E. Rosenfeld and Company. Illustrated Baltimore: The Monumental City, a book written in 1890, indicated that Rosenfeld specialized in night robes at that time. The firm was established in 1882 and had previously located at 306 Sharp Street and 116-118 West Lombard Street. By 1895 it had branches in New York, San Francisco, Saint Louis, Chicago, and Boston and a factory in Laurel, Maryland. The building, which was constructed for Rosenfeld in 1905, is among the earliest structures in Baltimore to have utilized reinforced concrete construction. The architects of the building, Parker and Thomas, also designed the Savings Bank of Baltimore and the Hansa Haus.

The Strauss building was built in 1887 on the site of the early 19th century Paca Street Church and Burial Ground. The building was originally used by the Kinny Tobacco Company, cigarette manufacturers. M. S. Levy and Sons, manufacturers of Straw Hats, was located in the building for a few years around 1895. The building at the corner of Lombard and Paca was called "among the foremost of its class" at the time it was occupied by M.S. Levy and Sons. Later the building was occupied by the Strauss Brothers, clothing and facturers. The Strauss Brothers were established in 1855 and were said to have carried "one of the most ample stocks of dry goods to be found in Baltimore." Their building, and excellent example of late Victorian styling executed in brick, terra cotta, and cast iron, also became part of the Rosenfeld complex around 1910.

SEE CONTINUATION CHEET 40

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Inner Harbor Lofts I

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Baltimore City
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 3

SIGNIFICANCE, continued

After many years of active industrial use, the buildings have recently become underutilized. Elevator operation and maintenance costs, as well as the changing character of urban industrialization, made the buildings economically inefficient. About two years ago, the buildings were purchased by Inner Harbor Loft, ssociates for adaptive use as loft apartments. The careful preservation of the exterior of the buildings and an imaginative re-use of the large loft spaces has made the project one of Baltimore's finest adaptive use attempts. With renovation work in progress, the first tenants have recently moved into the buildings.

The Inner Harbor Loft, Associates have taken an important first step in the preservation of one of the many loft structures which have great adaptive use potential in downtown Baltimore. These buildings are located in an area of many underutilized historic loft buildings. Plans for the area are to re-use these structures primarily for residential and office use. The Heiser, Rosenfeld, and Strauss buildings are significant as the first conversion of such buildings into loft apartments. These buildings, which have a great history of important local businesses and fine architectural styling, will continue to play an important role in the future revitalization of downtown Baltimore.

¹The Friedenwald Company later moved to the Abell Building nearby and was last listed in Baltimore City Directories in 1907.

²These earlier locations of the E. Rosenfeld and Company are no longer standing.

Major Bibliog phical References 3-2325 The Jews of Baltimore. Baltimore: Historical Review Company, 1910. Baltimore City: The Book of Its Board of Trade. 1895. Englehardt, George. Illustrated Baltimore: The Monumental City. N.Y.: American Publishing and Engraving Co., 1890. **Geographical Data** *.* O. 467 acre Acreage of nominated property 1:24000 Baltimore East Quad Quadrangle scale Quadrangle name_ **UMT References** Verbal boundary description and justification Lot on northwest corner of Lombard and Paca Streets, 187 x 130, fronting on Paca Street 187' and fronting on Lombard Street 130'. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries state code county code state code county code Form Prepared By Fred B. Shoken, Planning Assistant name/title Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation organization August 10, 1979 Room 601, 100 North Holliday Street telephone (301) 396-4866 street & number Maryland 21202 state Baltimore city or town State Historic Preservation Officer Certification The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: national X_ local As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. State Historic Preservation Officer signature STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER title date For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register date Seeper of the National Register Attest: date

Chief of Registration





Inner Harbor Lofts I
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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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NOMINATION FORM

for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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This six story high, five bay wide loft building is in the middle of a row of fairly equally dimensioned loft structures. The building is faced with brick which is laid in imitation of heavily rusticated stone.

The first floor is composed of metal, brick, wood and glass. Metal steps laid to the recessed tripartite central entrance which is filled with sets of double wooden and glass doors. Metal piers flank the entranceway, and large shop windows border these, set in the red brick wall. The end bays are slightly recessed behind the central portion of the building. Entrances are at ground level in either end; that on the left is accomodated in a large segmental arch with overscaled rusticated voussoirs laid in brick. A wide band of sheet metal sheathing obscures the original detail immediately above the first floor level.

The recession of the end bays is carried through to the sixth floor. The three central bays contain five story high verticals in the brick, which contain all fenestration. They are terminated at the sixth floor by segmental arches with rusticated voussoirs in brick and have overscaled keystones of white brick. The wide central opening contains tripartite, double hung windows with three-over-three lights. The flanking verticals have single sets of double hung windows with three-over-three lights. Pressed sheet metal panels fall between each floor of windows.

A brick parapet portions of which have been rebuilt, tops the flat roof.

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